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**Maughan**

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(54) **BEARING SOCKET LINER FOR BALL JOINT**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **403/135; 403/39; 280/93.511**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... **403/39, 132, 133, 403/135, 140, 144; 384/218; 280/93.511**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An improved socket liner for a ball and socket joint is adapted to be fixedly installed within a joint housing so as to encase the ball. The housing defines a longitudinal axis, and the liner, formed in two longitudinally extending mating halves that confront one another along surfaces parallel to the axis of the housing, are oriented to provide a theoretically tightest possible ball bearing-socket fit. Each liner half includes at least one protuberance on each longitudinally confronting surface. The protuberances not only facilitate location of the liner halves during assembly, but also assure a physical separation between the halves, creating an additional lubrication groove for enhanced operation of the joint during its useful life. In one preferred form, a compliant thin soft material cover is overmolded over the exterior socket liner structure, and exterior surface slots integrally provided on the cover interlock with protruding ribs fixed to the interior of the housing.

**10 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**

